



November 21, 2010

The United States would like to thank the Forum for the 21st century for initiating the discussion and organizing the conference on global cross-cultural issues. At the same time we would like to express our full support towards solving the challenges occurring in the new global scenario.

After an in-depth analysis of the draft proposed by the Forum for the 21st century let us annotate it and include our suggestions as well.

1. Global English as Lingua Franca

In the last century English has developed into the lingua franca of the world. In the United States, English (especially American English) is the primary language used for legislation, regulations, executive orders, treaties, federal court rulings, and all other official pronouncements.

By definition a *lingua franca* is composed of several cultures, each of which brings its own social rules and communication mores. In fact, there are as many cultures associated with English as there are communities that speak it. As there exists wide variety of forms of English, the United States agree to develop an unitarian functional system of the English language, being used as lingua franca for the global communication among the international institutions and global institutions, as well as among countries. At first, the United States consider important to accomplish the *English-only movement*, whose aim is to establish English as the singular official language in the whole territory of the United States. This movement refers to a political movement for the use only of the English language in official government operations through establishing of English as the only official language in the United States. By considering the benefits of the English-only movement, the United States suggest to adopt *the Global English movement* with the objective to establish the Global English as the obligatory first language used among international and global institutions as well as among countries during bilateral and multilateral negotiations.

In the next point, The United States agree to the suggestion of the Forum for the 21st century to create a commission formed by native English speaking professionals from the





academic field as the main platform, supported by representatives of each country, in order to bring their view and their meaning for the terminology of Global English, along with the representatives of institutions, with the aim to set an internationally comprehensive terminology. In this point the United States might offer an example, how the commission can work. In the country there exists The Office of English Language Programs, which perform similar task as the commission suggested by the Forum for the 21st century. The Office creates and implements English language programs in specific regions and countries of the world. These programs are administered through local American Embassies and Consulates and are supported by Regional English Language Officers and Program Specialists.

English Language Programs' activities also include the development of English teaching curricula, textbooks and training workshops. That is why the United States fully support that the creation of materials for a system of learning English will also be an inevitable part of commission's agenda.

The United States also agree to the fact, that functioning of this commission should be financed on the national level, but devoting 1% of GDP to the commission's budget is not acceptable. Instead of this, the United States propose following: each participating country will make direct contributions to the commission's budget in dependency on several criteria such as GDP level of the country, participation rate of each country to the commissions' activities, number of native English speaking professionals and qualification achieved and number of representatives of the country.

2. Secularization and Harmonization of Religious Differences

The United States, as democratic federation, follow *Principles of Democracy* and *Bill of Rights*. We respect *Human Rights* as the main rules and laws of behaving. All citizens in the USA can freely follow their conscience in matter of religious faith. The real democracy respects individual religious differences. But the role of government is not to guarantee or create one "true" religion. Justice Hugo L. Black expounded the development of religious freedom in the United States by words: "*Neither a state nor the Federal Government can set up a church. Neither can pass laws which aid one religion, aid all religions, or prefer one religion over another. Neither can force nor influence a person to go to or remain away from church against his will or force him to profess a belief or disbelief in any religion.*"





The aim of the USA is to protect religious choice of every individual, protect members of ethnic, religious or linguistic minorities. Separation of church and state is a key concept in American government and culture. The first line of the First Amendment of the United States constitution express that church and state have to be kept forever separate. The United States agree with Forum for 21th century that religion should be free to work for justice and peace and should lead people to behave morally and non violent to each other.

We have to proclaim, that religion is not absent from daily life in the United States. Religious freedom is one of the most prized liberties of the American people. We fully respect the right of religious organizations to freely participate and contribute to civil society. So, we consider incongruous to talk about the USA as the secular society. The USA prefer unchurching and religious individualization rather than secularization and agree with Forum in this point, as well.

The United States do not want to separate people or to prefer only one universal religion. We believe that everyone has the right to worship and the right for belonging to any religion. It is also the reason why the United States agree with Forum's slogan "believing without belonging". This idea can help as guideline on a national level.

Leading the dialogue between different religions is helpful and could lead to understanding and decreasing of violence. But the USA do not consider necessary to create a system of bilateral or multilateral agreements between different religious associations. Because of this reason the USA will claim to remove this point from the list.

3. Multiculturalism and Importance of Common Values; Importance of Intercultural dialogue

The United States do not have a unique culture. In fact it is the world's most multicultural country including representatives of different cultures. Multiculturalism is an inseparable part of the United States and Americans are becoming more aware of the importance of multiculturalism. The country has become merged with mixed culture, comprising natives, minorities and immigrants. The *melting pot* tradition which co-exists with a belief in national unity implies that all the immigrant cultures are amalgamated without state intervention.

In the United States, multiculturalism is not clearly established in policy at the federal





level but it has been promoted formally by institutions. That is one of the reasons which helped the multiculturalism to become a phenomenon recognized on the national level.

The phenomenon of multiculturalism did not only bring a change of social layers, but also made the citizen enjoy equal rights and liberty. This led to the demand for rights from people of various communities and backgrounds. Multiculturalism in the USA should not be a problem for those, who adopted US values and life style. Race, religion or gender is not as important for US society as hardworking, individualism and success.

Undoubtedly, multiculturalism in the United States has definitely shown positive aspects. That is why the United States suggest to establish the model of multiculturalism conserving the national unity focused on respecting and following the rights and interests of all cultural groups living in the country. It should be a role of state to make all the cultural groups to be aware of the fact that they are not the only owners of the state, but they are a part of it and they have to get used to sharing values with other citizens of different ethnic backgrounds.

The Americans are people from different backgrounds and ethnical groups. Thanks to this diversity the American culture has become more enriched. And despite of the fact that multiculturalism is not led by the state, there exists belief in national unity. That is why the United States recommend that the phenomenon of melting pot might serve as an example for the other participating countries. Necessarily, the governments are expected to guarantee equal rights to every nation. Without this, it is impossible to reach the real sustainable multicultural society.

The United States agree to the proposition of the Forum for the 21st century that creation and maintaining of favorable conditions for sustainable multiculturalism should be accomplished not only on the political field, but also various groups of specialists and non-governmental organizations should take part on this process. The USA agree with the Forum and suggest that each country should establish its own Cultural division under Ministry of education or Ministry of Cultural Affairs and the Forum for the 21st century should only coordinate these divisions, offer experts, lead the international dialogue, organize international discussions in member countries and help to solve problems connected with multiculturalism. There would be only one change in this proposition. Because the Forum





should only coordinate national divisions, we consider the percentage of the fee as too high. The USA suggest dividing countries into two groups. The first “high multicultural” group would subscribe 1% of their GDP to the organization and the second “low multicultural” group of countries would pay 0,5% of their GDP.¹

The United Nations might provide its professionals especially from the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs and the Bureau of Population, Refugees and Migration to participate on the research mainly on the cultural, social, psychological and educational factors, which are some of the crucial factors in providing the peaceful coexistence of different cultures. The United States are then willing to offer its professionals working for the Office for the Science & Technology to be helpful in coordination of the research.

The United States provide cultural programs for foreigners to get a better chance to be involved in the US society. This Cultural Programs Division is led by Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs. The program encourages cross-cultural understanding and collaboration by sharing the rich artistic traditions of the USA with foreign audience. The main idea is to show and share cultural arts, performing arts, films, arts education and cultural studies from different cultures. In this case, the United States agree with the proposition of the Forum for the 21st century that it is necessary to lead the intercultural dialogue.

In the last point the United States suggest to exclude the question of democratic multiculturalism from the agenda of the Forum for the 21st century.

The United States believe that its propositions and ideas will be considered and incorporated into a final document of the Forum for the 21st century. The United States highly appreciate the preparation of the final document by the Forum for the 21st century and hope the forthcoming Model conference will bring effective solutions in cross-cultural issues.

¹ „High multicultural group“ is the state in which there is minimum 50% of foreigners or members of different cultures.

